

**Independent Aging Agenda Event Report
From**

Baby Boomers: Caring for Our Parents and Assessing the Future of Senior Care
An Independent Aging Agenda Event:

The Village at Mariner's Point
Monday, August 22' 2005

Panelists:

- **Joy Cohen**, Holistic Medicine, Care by Joy
- **Mark Connell**, Elder Care Attorney
- **Bernadette Diguillian**, Deacon, Case Manager, Home Instead Senior and Elder Care
- **Diane Fisher**, MSW Director of The Strong House
- **Dr. Gerard Kerins**, Chief Geriatrics, Director of Geriatric Assessment Program, St. Raphael's Hospital
- **Pat O'Brien**, Medical Social Worker, VNA Services
- **Holly Warner**, Director of Community Relations, The Village at Mariner's Point

This event was a panel discussion on care issues facing senior baby boomers and with policy recommendations developed from the discussion.

Summary of discussion comments by panelists and attendees:

- Prevention of spousal impoverishment
- Provide more transportation for seniors / cost of gas
- Shortage of Home Health Staff (Nursing, Home Health Aid's, etc..)
- Change the name "Senior Center"
- Provide medical support to teach benefits of new drugs
- Increase State funding for home health aid
- More communication is part of health care- How can the government serve you?
- Educate Baby Boomers on new technology on how care is provided
- More comprehensive assessment is needed

- Improve mechanism of providing care – make home visits
- Who is providing care- need more emphasis on programs for geriatrics, need interdisciplinary approach

Specific recommendation on key policy areas:

Provisions must be made to ensure smooth delivery of health care services, with special focus on communications issues such as educating aging baby-boomers on new drugs and new health care technologies. In addition, greater attention needs to be paid to how health care can be delivered in the home.

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